

# Wabash Plain Dealer

\$3

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Tomorrow's weather 46 | 23



**Pulse  
of Wabash**

## Notice to readers

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## Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 24 and Dec. 22 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesday, Dec. 8 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org), [classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](http://classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

## Values, Ideas and the Arts series ongoing at Manchester

Manchester University's Values, Ideas and the Arts series presentations are at

See **PULSE**, page A3

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# Silver Alert declared for local man

WCSD: Wyatt Engle, 18, 'is believed to be in extreme danger'

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A Silver Alert declared last week for a Wabash County man was still in effect as of Tuesday, Nov. 23.

The Wabash County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) is investigating the disappearance of Wyatt Engle, 18. Engle is described as being

5 feet, 11 inches tall, weighing 210 pounds, with blonde hair with blue eyes.

Engle was last seen wearing a black hoodie and blue jeans and driving a gold 1999 Buick Park Avenue with an Indiana license plate of 592RTJ.

Engle is missing from North Manchester and was last seen at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 15.

"He is believed to be in extreme danger," stated the alert.

On Tuesday, Nov. 23, Indi-

ana State Police (ISP) Peru Post public information officer Sgt. Tony Slocum referred all questions to the WCSD as they are "the investigating agency."

A dispatcher from the WCSD confirmed by phone Tuesday, Nov. 23 that the alert was still active, but said they couldn't provide any additional information.

If you have any information, call 260-563-9223 or 911.

No further information was available as of press time.

The Wabash County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) is investigating the disappearance of Wyatt Engle, 18. Engle is described as being 5 feet, 11 inches tall, weighing 210 pounds, with blonde hair with blue eyes.

Provided photo

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).



# After 47 years, MSD bus driver Judy Decker announces retirement



Provided photo

In September 1974, MSD of Wabash County hired brand Judy Decker as a new bus driver. Now, 47 years later, Decker is ready to turn in her bus keys.

## A retirement open house has been planned for Wednesday, Dec. 15

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

In September 1974, MSD of Wabash County hired brand Judy Decker as a new bus driver.

Now, 47 years later, Decker is ready to turn in her bus keys.

Throughout her school

bus driving career, Decker has been able to drive three generations of students for the Southwood schools, said MSD director of communication and community engagement Laura Langebartels.

"She has served countless students as the safe bridge between school and home," said Langebartels.

Langebartels said there is no other bus driver in their district close to Decker's record at this time.

"Forty seven years is quite a career," said Langebartels.

Langebartels said Decker originally chose to become a bus driver because of her children.

"Her son with special needs had to change buses three times to get to school. With all those transitions, Judy would often need to pick him up and

help with the transporting," said Langebartels. "Judy did not realize she would enjoy driving so much but it has been her love for the position that has kept her in it for so long. Driving the vocational school route has been exceptionally enjoyable for Judy as it has allowed her to develop relationships with students and share in their accomplishments. As she reflects on her

See **DECKER**, page A4

## Spend Black Friday with Ronnie Milsap

### Country music legend to play Honeywell Center

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Ronnie Milsap has been awarded six Grammys and a dozen CMA Awards, including four turns as Male Vocalist of the Year.

His success in the country arena spilled over into the pop world thanks to the hits "I Wouldn't Have Missed It for the World" and "Any Day Now," along with country classics "Let

My Love Be Your Pillow" and "What a Difference You've Made in My Life."

And at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, he'll be taking the Honeywell Center stage. Most seats are \$34 or \$45, with limited premium seating available for \$100. Tickets are on sale now by calling 260-563-1102 or by visiting [www.honeywellarts.org](http://www.honeywellarts.org).

"I'm looking forward to playing in Wabash. I'm looking forward to that show," said Milsap, during a recent phone interview. "I have a great band. These folks have been playing with me for a long time,

some of them for 30 years. And they know a lot about my music. And this show is really going to be breathtaking, I think. We're going to make it that way."

Milsap was born in 1943 in Robbinsville, North Carolina. He has been almost completely blind since birth.

Milsap grew up in extreme poverty. Milsap said this hardship was compounded by the familial rejection he experienced because of his condition.

"My mother did not want a blind child," said Milsap.

See **MILSAP**, page A4

# Manchester exhibit honors indigenous identity

The art show features colorful skirts, detailed drawings and vibrant paintings

By **ANNE GREGORY**

Link Gallery at Manchester University offers art pieces by North Manchester resident Briana "Bri" Floor in "Indigi-Flections:

Reflections on an Indigenous Identity."

Beginning in November, which is Native American Heritage Month, the exhibit continues through Feb. 4, 2022.

Link Gallery is in Winger Hall on East Street in North Manchester. The public is welcome, and masks are required inside MU buildings.

See **EXHIBIT**, page A4



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# ISP increasing patrols to promote safer Thanksgiving travel

## Officers will be discouraging impaired driving, ensuring seat belt usage

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana State Police (ISP) is joining hundreds of law enforcement agencies across Indiana for the “Safe Family Travel” campaign, according to ISP Peru Post public information officer Sgt. Tony Slocum.

Over the next six weeks, officers will be working overtime to discourage impaired driving and ensure drivers and passengers are properly buckled.

The high-visibility patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and funds are disbursed by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI). The patrols will be concentrated around Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year’s holidays.

Thanksgiving travel is expected to rebound to nearly pre-pandemic levels. The American Automobile Association (AAA) predicts that 48.3 million people will be taking to the roads for the holiday. This is an eight percent increase from 2020. Unfortunately, heavier traf-

fic, combined with declining seat belt use and the prevalence of impaired driving, makes this travel period particularly dangerous for road users.

“Troopers will be searching for the few, who endanger the many, by driving impaired,” said ISP Peru Post commander Lt. T.J. Zeiser. “Officers will also be searching for anyone driving recklessly and will have zero tolerance for seat belt and child restraint violations.”

In Indiana, and nationwide, reckless driving incidents remain higher than during pre-pandemic times. As of early October, 683 people have been killed in crashes statewide, which is an eight percent increase from the same time in 2019 and on pace with 2020 as one of the deadliest years in the past decade.

With one of the busiest travel periods still ahead, officers will be working to reverse this trend by focusing on impaired and unrestrained driving, two of the main causes behind the rise in fatalities.






Of the total number of vehicle occupants killed in crashes so far this year, more than 40 percent were not wearing seat belts. Moreover, seat belt use in Indiana declined for the first time in five years from 94.9 percent before the pandemic to 92.9 percent.

“Whether you’re driving for 10 minutes or 10 hours, we’re asking everyone to plan and make safety their top priority,” said ICJI executive director Devon McDonald. “Don’t be the reason there’s an empty seat at your table or someone else’s this Thanksgiving.”

The department wants to remind motorists that most traffic fatalities can be prevented by taking some simple precautions: never drive impaired, always wear a seat belt, follow posted speed limits and avoid distractions.





Before consuming alcohol, plan a sober ride home, such as a designated driver or using a ride service or public transportation. Motorists are encouraged to call 911 if they encounter an impaired or unsafe driver on the road. Give a location and direction of travel. Never follow a suspected impaired driver.

### 5-Day Weather Summary

 <b>Wednesday</b> Partly Cloudy 50 / 41	 <b>Thursday</b> Rain Likely 46 / 23	 <b>Friday</b> Partly Cloudy 35 / 25	 <b>Saturday</b> Mostly Cloudy 43 / 29	 <b>Sunday</b> Partly Cloudy 42 / 30
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#### Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 5:22 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 7:38 a.m.

 Last 11/27	 New 12/4	 First 12/10	 Full 12/18
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#### Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 50°, humidity of 50%. South southeast wind 11 to 16 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 65% chance of scattered rain, overnight low of 41°. South wind 9 to 14 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 38°.

# Waypoint to hold charity dodge ball tournament Saturday

## Teams of six to 10 are invited to play on Miami Street

STAFF REPORT

Waypoint has announced that on Saturday, Nov. 27, the organization will host a dodge ball tournament on Miami Street, according to Abby Waldon.

Sponsored by well-known company Undaunted Leadership, Coaching & Wholeness the event is a fundraiser with proceeds earmarked for the direct investment in the new transitional home planned to open in early 2022.

Waypoint is a transitional living environment dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle for women living in sobriety. Led by a local volunteer board of directors, the organization is seeking funding for the renovation phase of the new facility located at 189 N. Wabash St.

Through a partnership

with the city of Wabash and the Waypoint Board of Directors, the property was purchased from Indiana Landmarks and is currently being renovated to serve as a place where women can learn to live in sobriety while in transition.

“Wabash has had a need for a woman’s home that offers sustainable life instruction in a safe and sober environment,” said Mayor Scott Long. “New Beginnings has offered this to men for years. It is past time that we offer this opportunity for women to heal as well.”

The dodge ball tournament is the first-of-its-kind fundraising event in Wabash. Teams of six to 10 are invited to play on Miami Street, with the first two games kicking off at 10 a.m. Businesses are welcome to sponsor teams, much like a golf tournament.

“I believe in Waypoint and the mission that it hopes to serve in our community,” said planning

committee member Hayley Renbarger. “I also really enjoy playing dodgeball. While meeting with Abby (Waldon) about Waypoint, I had the idea of putting the two together. What better way to burn a few calories after Thanksgiving Dinner and raise funds for a much-needed organization?”

Renbarger, along with Waldon and Sarah Lochner, has taken the lead as the event organizers.

“It is our hope to have at least 10 teams participate this year,” said Waldon. “Visit Wabash County has created an event on their website with all of the information and sign-up instructions. There is also an option for people to donate even if they do not want to play. But I am really hoping that the community will come out and have a great time.”

All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, visit VisitWabashCounty.com or call 260-563-7171.

# Beyond Roe v. Wade

If you are pregnant and in need, come to the Catholic Church! That was the message of Cardinal John O’Connor 30 years ago when he founded the Sisters of Life in New York. That community of Catholic nuns were founded to protect and enhance the sanctity of human life. The Sisters today are in the New York metropolitan area, Phoenix, Denver, Philadelphia, Toronto and Washington, D.C.

But they are far from the only resources available to women. There are over 2,700 pro-life pregnancy care centers in the United States. At the recent U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Kansas City bishop Joseph Naumann, the outgoing chair of the bishops’ pro-life committee, essentially reissued that O’Connor pledge – and urged every Catholic parish in America to step up to the plate. “We’re committed to help women not just through birth, but to thrive and succeed in life,” Naumann said.

It is not the law, but love that will help pregnant and parenting mothers. Do you know what the resources in your community are for women who want support to have their babies? Because if the word isn’t out, our prevailing culture will send women right into the arms of abortion clinics.

The church’s Walking With Moms in Need initiative, launched in March 2020 as the world shut down, takes a divisive issue – abortion – and

Kathryn Lopez



makes it a catalyst for unity. If you care about women, if you care about social justice, we can rally around women whatever your position on abortion is. Whatever the law is, women need to know what their resources are. The Dobbs case is an opportunity to rally around mothers in a new way, letting all the helps be known.

Walking With Moms in Need began at the 25th anniversary mark of the publication of “The Gospel of Life,” from Pope John Paul II, taking inspiration from its great ideas, which should still challenge us today: “With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination, we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth. At the same time, we need to promote a serious and in-depth exchange about basic issues of human life with everyone, including non-believers, in intellectual circles, in the various professional spheres and at the level of people’s everyday life.”

During the Baltimore bishops conference, the bishop of Las Vegas mentioned that

his diocese has the Loving Hearts adoption services center. “We are encouraging politicians and all of the community to enter into a rigorous adoption option campaign,” he said.

And the culture of life isn’t just about abortion. There are many children languishing in the foster-care system. This has got to be a part of our pro-life work, as well, Naumann said.

We should be able to reach across parties and denominations. At a recent pro-life vigil outside Manhattan’s Planned Parenthood, an atheist welcomed a Franciscan priest to say a prayer. The pro-life movement can truly be about unity, if people knew we were more about overturning Roe v. Wade. We want that. But even more so, we want to connect with anyone who wants to make “women really have a choice, a choice they can live with,” as Naumann put it. We will enter a season soon that involves a pregnant couple refused a room for childbirth. The Catholic Church has room for you. Our hearts yearn to help you. And we’re doing it, all across the nation.

*Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan’s pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.*

# Wabash County YMCA to hold third annual Holiday Benefit Silent Auction

## Proceeds will provide scholarships to low-income families

STAFF REPORT

The Wabash County YMCA has announced the third annual Holiday Benefit Silent Auction benefiting the YMCA financial assistance program, according to director of marketing and special projects Jana Thibos.

“Recovering from the difficulties associated with the pandemic, the Wabash County YMCA needs your help more than ever to continue our work in the community,” said Thibos. “As the YMCA addresses community is-

sues such as food insecurity or obesity, your support will ensure our community has the resources for a healthy future.”

The entire auction will be held online with bidding beginning at noon Monday, Nov. 29 and ending at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7.

“Continuing with the on-line format in the wake of COVID-19 allows all to view and bid on items, regardless of their location. Items can still be viewed in the lobby. With over 50 auction items, there is something for everyone. The registration process is easy,” said Thibos.

Registration may take place any time before or during the event and can be found by visiting www.

bit.ly/WCYHBSA21.

“Proceeds will provide scholarships to low-income families so we can keep our promise that no one is turned away from the Wabash County YMCA due to an inability to pay. Funds raised allow us to provide financial assistance for child care, youth sports, aquatics programs, membership assistance, and so much more. We are thankful for the dozens of community donations given to us for this year’s auction,” said Thibos.

For more information, visit wabashcountyyymca.org or call 260-563-9622.

To donate, visit www.wabashcountyyymca.org/ donate or email jdriskill@wabashcountyyymca.org.

# Wabash City Hall and other depts closed Thursday and Friday

Wabash City Hall and all non-essential departments of the city of Wabash will be closed Thursday, Nov.


25, and Friday, Nov. 26, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, according to Mayor Scott Long’s as-

sistant Bev Vanderpool. All offices will open again at 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 29.

# \$300 REWARD FOR MISSING CAT!

## Orange mackerel tabby. Sometimes answers to the name ‘Tommy.’ He decided to explore the world on Tuesday, November 16th. He may still be in the area north of Harrison & West of Manchester Ave.

### Please contact Jim Vice 260-563-4240 11 Ulen Drive, Wabash.



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# Obituaries

## Peggy Joan Heflin

Aug. 25, 1933 – Nov. 18, 2021

Peggy Joan Heflin, 88, formerly of rural Urbana, Indiana, died at 7:21 am, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, at Wellbrooke of Wabash, Indiana. She was born on Aug. 25, 1933, in Tipton, Indiana, to Orrien Alexander and Delee (Freeland) Morris.

Peggy was a 1951 graduate of Tipton High School and attended Manchester College for 2 years. She married Max Lavon Heflin on June 29, 1952, in Tipton, Indiana. He died October 17, 2020. Peggy was a homemaker and farmer’s wife, and also worked at Manchester Co-Op for 14 years. She was a member of Ladies Night Out Home Economics Club. Peggy enjoyed her dogs and cats, gardening, raising flowers, and loved cooking, especially baking pies and rolls, and also spending time with her family.

She is survived by two children, Kirk Von (Carlotta Bach) Heflin of Vienna, Austria, and Karen (Lee) Smith of Wabash, three grandchildren, Kayla (Casey) Taylor and Lyman “Len” (Megan) Smith, both of Wabash, and Luna Heflin of Vienna, three great grandchildren, Kyle Smith, Casey Taylor Jr., and Ly-



man “Rhett” Smith, all of Wabash, and sister, Sue (Chuck) Cardwell of Kokomo, Indiana. She was also preceded in death by, her parents, five brothers, and three sisters.

Funeral services will be 2:00 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor Jerry Gauthier officiating. Burial will be in Mississinewa Cemetery, Somerset, Indiana. Friends may call 5-7 pm Monday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Wabash Zion Lutheran Church. The memorial guest book for Peggy may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

## Jeffrey ‘Jeff’ Ivan Hail

April 23, 1955 – Nov. 20, 2021

Jeffrey “Jeff” Ivan Hail, age 66, of Somerset, KY passed away on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021 at his residence.



Pamela (Don) Miller. He was very fond of his numerous nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephews.

Jeff was born on April 23, 1955 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Ramona Hail and the late Ivan Hail. He was a 1973 graduate of Southwood High School in Wabash County, Indiana. He was a former resident of rural Wabash IN., before moving to Pulaski County 40 years ago. Jeff attended Indiana Business College in Marion, Indiana. He was co-owner of Hail Trucking Company with his father for 25 years. He was of the United Methodist faith. Jeff was a loving son and helpful friend.

He is survived by his mother, Ramona Hail, of Somerset; and three sisters, Debra (Gary) Stuckey, Barbara Hettmansperger, and

Jeff was preceded in death by his father and his brother, Joseph Paul Hail.

A private Memorial Service for the family will be held at the Hail Community Cemetery at a later date.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy be made to the Hail Community Cemetery Fund in c/o Lake Cumberland Funeral Home P.O. Box 1441 Somerset, KY 42502.

You are welcome to view the obituary and send condolences to the family at our website: [www.LakeCumberlandFuneralService.com](http://www.LakeCumberlandFuneralService.com).

Lake Cumberland Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements for Jeff Hail.

## Velma B. Hantelman

Velma B. Hantelman, 98, Silver Lake, Indiana, passed away on Nov. 19, 2021.

The memory of Velma B. Hantelman will be cherished by husband, Donald W. Hantelman; daughter, Dian (Don) Adkins; stepson, Tony K. (Nancy) Hantelman; stepdaughters, Pamela K. (David) Callaway and Jennifer J. (Dwight) Wagoner; daughter-in-law, Mary Ann Frey; brother-

in-law, Dennis Landes; sister-in-law, Karen Frantz; seventeen grandchildren; fifty-one great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

A graveside service will be Nov. 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the North Manchester Old German Baptist Brethren Cemetery, 12546 North State Road 13, North Manchester, Indiana. Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

## Barbara Carol Basore

Barbara Carol Basore, 79, North Manchester, passed away Nov. 21, 2021.

The memory of Barbara Basore will be cherished by sons, Dwight Basore, North Manchester, Chad (Heidi) Basore, Granger, Washington, Wendel Basore, North Manchester; daughter, Gretchen (Andrew) Good, Palmer, Alaska; sister, Ardis (Clarence) Reavis, North Manchester;

eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Calling Nov. 26, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Manchester Old German Baptist Church Cemetery, 12546 North State Road 13, North Manchester. A graveside service will be held at the conclusion of calling on Nov. 26, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

## Eileen Ruth Waite

Eileen Ruth Waite, of Wabash, Indiana passed away Nov. 17, 2021.

Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, at McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana. Burial will follow at Mississinewa

Memorial Cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the services, starting at 1 p.m., at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at [www.mcdonaldfunerals.com](http://www.mcdonaldfunerals.com)

## Darrell Dean Keller Jr

Family of Darrell Dean Keller Jr., who died Saturday Nov. 20, 2021, will receive friends 3-7pm Friday, Nov. 26,

2021 at the Lagro Community Center in Lagro. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

# Vaccines making Thanksgiving easier

By **ED WHITE**  
Associated Press

The U.S. is facing its second Thanksgiving of the pandemic in better shape than the first time around, thanks to the vaccine, though some regions are seeing surges of COVID-19 cases that could get worse as families travel the country for gatherings that were impossible a year ago.

Nearly 200 million Americans are fully vaccinated. That leaves tens of millions who have yet to get a shot in the arm, some of them out of defiance. Hospitals in the cold Upper Midwest, especially Michigan and Minnesota, are filled with COVID-19 patients who are mostly unvaccinated.

Michigan hospitals reported about 3,800 coronavirus patients at the start of the week, with 20 percent in intensive care units, numbers

that approach the bleakest days of the pandemic’s 2020 start. The state had a seven-day new-case rate of 616 per 100,000 people Monday, highest in the nation.

In the West, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Montana also ranked high. Some Colorado communities, including Denver, are turning to indoor mask orders to reduce risk, a policy that has also been adopted in the Buffalo, New York, area and Santa Cruz County, California.

The statistics in Michigan are “horrible,” said Dr. Matthew Trunsky, a respiratory specialist at Beaumont Health in suburban Detroit.

“We got cold and moved indoors and have huge pockets of unvaccinated people,” he said. “You can’t have pockets of unvaccinated people who don’t want to be masked and not expect to get outbreaks, not expect to lose parents, not

expect to lose teachers.”

During a recent office visit, he encouraged a patient who uses oxygen to get vaccinated. The patient declined and now is in the hospital with COVID-19, desperately relying on even more oxygen, Trunsky said.

He said he continues to encounter patients and their family members espousing conspiracy theories about the vaccine.

“We’ve had several people in their 40s die in the last month – 100 percent unvaccinated,” Trunsky said. “It’s just so incredibly sad to see a woman die with teenagers. Especially with that age group, it’s nearly 100 percent preventable.”

In Detroit, where less than 40 percent of eligible residents were fully vaccinated, Mayor Mike Duggan said hospitalizations have doubled since early November.

“We have far too many people in this country that we have lost because they believed some nonsense on the internet and decided not to get the vaccine,” said Duggan, a former hospital executive.

Despite hot spots, the outlook in the U.S. overall is significantly better than it was at Thanksgiving 2020.

Without the vaccine, which became available in mid-December 2020, the U.S. a year ago was averaging 169,000 cases and 1,645 deaths per day, and about 81,000 people were in the hospital with COVID-19. The U.S. now is averaging 95,000 cases, 1,115 deaths and 40,000 in the hospital.

Airports have been jammed. More than 2.2 million people passed through security checkpoints on Friday, the busiest day since the pandemic shut down travel early in 2020.

## PULSE

From page A1

11 a.m. Mondays in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus. They are free and open to the public. Masks and social distancing are required. Some will be live-streamed at [www.facebook.com/ManchesterUniv](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUniv). Check the schedule at [www.manchester.edu/academics/VIA](http://www.manchester.edu/academics/VIA) for viewing updates. Nov. 29, Lucas Al-Zoughbi, a doctoral student and University Distinguished Fellow at Michigan State University, will share his own experiences and offers an introduction to the Palestinian struggle against Israeli settler-colonialism. The series wraps up for the semester on Dec. 6 with a presentation by Manchester University Archivist Jeanine Wine.

## Wabash County Museum honors veterans in November

During November all veterans will receive free admission to the Wabash County Museum, 36 E. Market St., where they can view the Honor Wall exhibit and the Military exhibit as well as 90-plus additional exhibits that celebrate the history of Wabash County. The military exhibit features a video of several Wabash County veterans sharing their oral histories. The museum team would like to expand the collection of oral histories from veterans. The museum is also collaborating with Living Well in Wabash County to offer a Senior Scavenger Hunt during November. Seniors can pick up their scavenger hunt form at the Welcome Desk. Answers are found in several museum exhibits as well as on the windows of Living Well in Wabash County’s downtown location, just across the street from the Museum. Completed forms will be entered into a drawing for a prize basket that includes gift cards from area businesses and a selection of Grandma’s Fudge. For more information, visit [www.wabashmuseum.org](http://www.wabashmuseum.org).

## Babe of Wabash County selling charity window candle lighting spots

Starting Wednesday, Dec. 1, Babe of Wabash County would like to remember or honor your loved ones by placing candles in their windows. The candles will light up the house throughout the Christmas season. The cost will be \$25 per candle. In addition to placing a candle in their window, they will also honor your loved one on our Facebook page and in their newsletter. The proceeds for the fundraiser will go towards their coupon program and boutique needs. For more information, call 260-274-0158, email [babeofwabashinc@gmail.com](mailto:babeofwabashinc@gmail.com) or visit [www.babeofwabashcounty.org](http://www.babeofwabashcounty.org).

## Somerset Lions Club plans ‘Breakfast with Santa’

The Somerset Lions Club

has planned a “Breakfast with Santa” from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Somerset Community Building, 21 W. Old Slocum Trail, Somerset. There will be a “goodie bag” for all children in attendance. Decorate your cookie. Please wear masks to protect the children. Santa will arrive at 8:30 a.m. Musical entertainment will be provided. The menu will include pancakes, biscuits, gravy and a drink for a free-will donation.

## Manchester Civic Band plans Timbercrest and Peabody live performances

A Manchester Civic Band performance at Peabody Retirement Community has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1. This year’s Timbercrest Retirement Community performances have been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

## WACT plans Christmas Madrigal Dinner Theater

On Friday, Dec. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 4, in conjunction with Honeywell Arts & Entertainment, the Wabash Area Community Theater (WACT) will share its biennial Christmas Madrigal Dinner Theater in the Honeywell Center’s Legacy Hall. The cost is \$49 per person, which includes dinner and entertainment. Tickets may be purchased through the Honeywell Center Box Office, 275 W. Market St., by phone at 260-563-1102 or by visiting [www.honeywellarts.org](http://www.honeywellarts.org).

## Salamonie Forest Preschool underway

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool through May 2022 for one Tuesday a month or two Tuesdays a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area. Classes for the once-a-month option will be held Tuesdays including Dec. 7, 2021; Jan. 4, 2022; Feb. 1, 2022; March 1, 2022; April 12, 2022; and May 3, 2022. Classes for the second meeting time each month will also be held Tuesdays including Dec. 21, 2021; Jan. 18, 2022; Feb. 15, 2022; March 15, 2022; April 26, 2022; and May 17, 2022. Advance registration is required. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit [dnr.IN.gov/uwis](http://dnr.IN.gov/uwis) or [facebook.com/upperwabash](http://facebook.com/upperwabash).

## Salamonie ‘Tweens Among the Trees’ Forest School underway

Children ages 6 to 13 are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool from November 2021 through April 2022 at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The class will be offered one Wednesday a month from

9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, Andrews. Classes will be held on Wednesdays: Dec. 8, 2021; Jan. 5, 2022; Feb. 2, 2022; March 2, 2020; and April 20, 2022. Advance registration is required. Limited space is available. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit [dnr.IN.gov/uwis](http://dnr.IN.gov/uwis) or [facebook.com/upperwabash](http://facebook.com/upperwabash).

## Red Cross schedules local blood donation opportunities

The American Red Cross scheduled a special blood drive in honor of Kole Adamiec, 6, a North Manchester boy who has been fighting cancer. This dedicated blood drive will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at Manchester Elementary School, 301 S. River Road, North Manchester. Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

## Manchester Symphony Orchestra announces 83rd season

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra under Conductor Debra Lynn heads into its 83rd season with these concerts in the works: Holiday Concert on Dec. 12, 2021, in Cordier features the Carol Symphony by Victor Hely-Hutchinson, Sleigh Ride by Frederick Delius, March Militaire by Franz Schubert and The Skater’s Waltz by Émile Waldeufel. Trailblazers is March 13, 2022, at the Honeywell Center in Wabash, Indiana. It celebrates African-American composer Florence Price and her Symphony No. 1 in E minor. The concert will also feature high school and college winners of the orchestra’s concerto competition. Spaces on May 15, 2022, in Cordier is the final concert of the season, showcasing the world premiere of Lynn’s five-movement concerto titled Spaces, written specifically for guest artist Derek Reeves. He is the principal violist of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. All concerts are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. Masks and social distancing are required.

## Grow Wabash County gift checks spark shopping local

Grow Wabash County gift checks (formerly known as Chamber Gift Checks before 2017) are gift certificates that can be redeemed at any business or organization that is a current Grow Wabash County investor. Since gift checks can only be spent at Grow Wabash County investors, businesses that are not currently members that would like to participate in this year’s program may call 260-563-5258 or visit [www.growwabashcounty.com/invest](http://www.growwabashcounty.com/invest). For a full list of Grow Wabash County investors, visit [www.growwabashcounty.com/](http://www.growwabashcounty.com/)

investors. Grow Wabash County also offers a list of retail stores, restaurants and other GWC investors where gift checks are most commonly used. That list can be found at [www.growwabashcounty.com/giftchecklist](http://www.growwabashcounty.com/giftchecklist). Businesses that are not currently Grow Wabash County investors should not be accepting gift checks from customers. Gift checks may be purchased by emailing [marketing@growwabashcounty.com](mailto:marketing@growwabashcounty.com) or calling 260-563-5258. Gift checks must be paid upfront with cash or check, credit or debit card payments are not accepted for gift check orders. The last day to order gift checks will be Monday, Dec. 20 and gift check orders may be picked up no later than Wednesday, Dec. 22. For more information, visit [www.growwabashcounty.com/giftchecks](http://www.growwabashcounty.com/giftchecks).

## Living Gift Market fundraiser for Heifer International continues through Dec. 31

The 34th Living Gift Market for Heifer International was held Saturday, Nov. 13 in North Manchester, but donations will be accepted until Dec. 31. For more information, call 260-982-6343.

## DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email [office@wabashfriends.org](mailto:office@wabashfriends.org), call 260-571-5235 or visit [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

## Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

*Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com) no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*





Provided photo  
A retirement open house will be held for her from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 in the Southwood Jr / Sr High School cafeteria, 564 Indiana 124.

DECKER

From page A1

driving career Judy says many aspects have changed, noting training methods and even the landscape of the city.”

Langebartels said while school bus driving Decker also worked at Pizza Hut for 30 years.

“Judy has many plans for retirement including being more involved in her church, with family, and her daughters’ business, Bluebird Boutique,” said Langebartels. “Judy hopes to travel to Michigan to see her great-grandson more often, along with visiting family and church family in nursing homes. Although she will miss driving Judy admits that she will enjoy staying home on snowy days.”

Langebartels said in celebration of Decker’s “excellent years of service to the MSD community,” a retirement open house will be held for her from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 15 in the Southwood Jr/Sr High School cafeteria, 564 Indiana 124.

“The public is invited to attend especially those who had Judy as a driver during their school years,” said Langebartels.

Langebartels said they are currently looking for additional bus drivers to join the district.

“Employment within a school district is a rewarding experience, as is evidenced by Judy’s story of staying in the position due to her love for it,” said Langebartels. “Although there is an employee shortage, MSD provides training, a sign-on bonus, and drivers can earn up to \$93 a day plus retirement benefits as well as extra money for field trips.”

For more information, email transportation director Melissa Ball at ballm@msdwc.k12.in.us or call 260-563-8050.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com.*



Provided photo  
The art show features colorful skirts, detailed drawings and vibrant paintings.

EXHIBIT

From page A1

The art show features colorful skirts, detailed drawings and vibrant paintings.

Growing up in North Manchester, Floor also spent time

in the hills with her Native relatives in Appalachia. She is a poet and has spent many years working as a healer in both Native and Eastern traditions.

*Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.*



Provided photos  
At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, Ronnie Milsap will be taking the Honeywell Center stage.

MILSAP

From page A1

After his mother abandoned him, he lived with his grandparents. When he was 5 years old, Milsap began attending the Governor Morehead School for the blind in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Milsap said this was where he first honed his musical skills.

“I was called to start violin lessons when I was 7. My violin teacher was really great. Then I started studying piano when I was 8. That Piano teacher was excellent. That’s one thing about the school in Raleigh, they had a great music department. I soaked it all up,” said Milsap.

After graduation, Milsap earned a scholarship to attend Young Harris College in Young Harris, Georgia.

He had planned to become a lawyer. But things didn’t work out that way.

“I thought about it. Either I was going to study law, maybe become a political science teacher, I’m not sure,” said Milsap. “I don’t think that would have worked. I was playing in a band in Georgia and I thought playing music seems to be where I am. It seems to be what I’m supposed to do.”

It was 1965, and Milsap decided to audition for a part in J.J. Cale’s band.

“I was in my apartment in Atlanta and a disc jockey friend called and said, ‘They’re having trouble at the Whiskey a Go Go. J.J. Cale is playing down there and they think if you come down and join the band it will help them some.’ So, I went down there and played that first night with J.J. Cale.”

Milsap said he didn’t have a keyboard yet. Instead, he just had a one-keyboard Vox organ, which Cale was none too fond of.

“I remember when I brought that in and J.J. Cale said, ‘Ronnie this is not a God damn skating rink.’ He was hard to talk to, but he was real good,” said Milsap.

Milsap said after playing with Cale in Atlanta he was asked to join the band back in California. However, Milsap declined, saying he planned to marry Joyce Reeves. The two remained together until her death in September 2021.

“I said, ‘Well, I can’t



Ronnie Milsap was born in 1943 in Robbinsville, North Carolina.

do that. I’m about to marry this girl I’m dating.’ He said, ‘You’re going to marry that blond-headed beauty?’ I said yeah, ‘I am.’ So I didn’t go to California. I stayed in Atlanta,” said Milsap.

At around this time, Milsap was coming into contact with all manner of fellow musical legends in the making, including Stevie Wonder.

“I met Stevie when he was 15. I saw him do ‘Fingertips’ in a place in Atlanta I would go to called The Royal Peacock. Stevie was there and he knocked them out,” said Milsap. “I was on the R and B circuit and I was playing the Howard Theater in Washington. And Stevie came in because some blue-eyed soul brother is getting all the attention. And he came in and he had been to England and he was still talking with a British accent. It was really cool. I’d run into him occasionally.”

Also in 1965, Milsap had recorded the song “Let’s Go Get Stoned,” which caught the attention of Ray Charles.

“I ran into Ray Charles. Ray Charles said, ‘I love that record you’ve got out. I love that B-side so much I think I’m going to cut it myself,’” said Milsap.

“Ray really did a great job.”

By the late 1960s, Milsap had moved to Memphis when he was offered the opportunity to work with one of his musical heroes, Elvis Presley.

“They said, ‘Elvis is going to come through and record at American Studios and we’re going to cut an album where he gets back to his roots,’” said Milsap.

One of the songs which came out of those sessions was the hit “Kentucky Rain.”

“He usually would have a New Year’s Eve party at a club where I played called T.J.’s. Elvis came in and he all his entourage with him. And he came to me and said, ‘I liked what you played on “Kentucky Rain.” I sang over him on the part above him on ‘Kentucky Rain,’ too, and he said, ‘I appreciate you hitting that high note for me,’” said Milsap. “Elvis went around and had kissed everybody Happy New Year. My wife ... he came and kissed her and she didn’t think too much of him.”

By the early 1970s, Milsap had moved to Nashville when a meeting with Charley Pride’s manager Jack D. Johnson led to a record contract with RCA. What

followed was decades of fame, fortune and number one singles.

One of those hits was a duet with Kenny Rogers in 1987 called, “Make No Mistake, She’s Mine.”

“I remember playing the New York State Fair and I said, ‘We’ve got to start doing this on the show.’ Kenny said, ‘They’re not playing it on the radio yet.’ I said, ‘Yes they are.’ And, so, I saw him the next week and he said, ‘Damn, they are. They’re playing it on the radio.’ It went to number one. It’s the only Grammy that Kenny Rogers ever received. He got to do that with me,” said Milsap. “He had quite a rich history. His career was just amazing.”

After all this success, Milsap had a simple message for aspiring musicians.

“Don’t do it,” he said, laughing. “But if your passion leads to this, you’ll do it anyway. And your guardian angels will help get it done. I have some good guardian angels around me. And I appreciate it. ... I don’t ever get tired of having number one records. You don’t get tired of that.”

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com.*

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WINAMAC VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL DEFEATS MANCHESTER 53-38 ON SATURDAY



In varsity action, Lady Squires senior Keilan Creager goes up for two against Winamac on Saturday at MHS.

MU women’s basketball runs past Adrian 72-53

The Spartans will head to Beloit College for its next contest on Saturday, Nov. 27

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University women’s hoops squad won for the second consecutive outing after blowing past visiting Adrian College 72-53 on Saturday, Nov. 20. The Black and Gold led for more than 33 minutes in Saturday’s contest and built as much as a 24-point lead midway through the fourth quarter. The Spartans’ defense was strong throughout Saturday’s non-conference match-up. Adrian was limited to 35.7 percent (20-56) shooting. The Bulldogs were also pressured into 23

turnovers. Manchester came away with 18 steals in the win and converted the 23 turnovers by Adrian into 26 points. Three Spartans scored in double figures in the win. Senior forward Macy Miller, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, led the way with 20 points and seven rebounds. Miller finished 9-13 shooting for the game. She also matched her career-high with three steals. First-year guard Eva Bazzoni, from Wabash and Manchester High School, added 13 points. Bazzoni finished 3-6 from three-point territory. The final

Spartan to score in double figures was senior guard Miranda Bieghler, from Plainfield and South Putnam High School. Bieghler scored 11 points while grabbing seven boards. Ten different Spartans scored on Saturday afternoon. Manchester also made good use of the free-throw line – finishing 19-25 for 76 percent. Manchester (2-1) will head to Beloit College for its next contest on Saturday, Nov. 27. Game time from Wisconsin is scheduled for 3 p.m. (2 p.m. local time). Adrian (2-3) hosted Siena Heights on Tuesday, Nov. 23. Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.



Senior forward Macy Miller, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, led the way with 20 points and seven rebounds.



Bryant Smith led all scorers on the afternoon, finishing with 25 points on 8-17 shooting.

Smith’s game-winning 3-pointer sends Spartans over Oberlin

Manchester men’s basketball team will face Capital on Sunday, Nov. 28

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University men’s basketball team found itself on the winning end of yet another dramatic finish on Saturday afternoon. After narrowly falling on a buzzer-beater earlier in the week, the Spartans were able to sink a clutch basket themselves as time expired against host Oberlin College. After a layup by first-year guard Quentez Columbus, from South Bend and Adams High School, put Manchester ahead 72-71 with 27 seconds left, the Yeomen responded with a pair of free throws by Yuuki Okubo. Trailing 73-72 with 6.2 seconds left, Columbus was able to beat the full-court pressure by Oberlin and found first-year guard Bryant Smith, from West Lafayette and Harrison High School, spotted up on the left wing. Smith elevated over a pair of Yeomen defenders and buried the triple to put the Spartans ahead 75-73 with just 0.1 seconds left on the game clock. Smith led all scorers on the afternoon, finishing with 25 points on 8-17 shooting. Smith went 6-14 from three-point territory and went a perfect 3-3 at the free-throw line. Quentez Columbus added 20 points and seven rebounds. Fifth-year forward CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, added 12 points and seven rebounds for Manchester. The Black and Gold finished shooting 27-61 for the game – good enough for 44 percent. The Spartan knocked down 13 triples in

the win. Four Oberlin players scored in double figures. Wolf Moser led the way with 20 points, while Dimitrije Radusinovic scored 16, Cole Otley 14, and Asaan Snipes-Rea 10. Radusinovic also grabbed a game-high 18 rebounds. The Yeomen shot 47.5 percent (28-59) but were held to just 36 percent (9-25) shooting from three-point territory. Manchester also forced 15 turnovers and converted those turnovers into 17 points. Manchester (1-4) secured its first win of the season and will face Capital in its next contest on Sunday, Nov. 28. Tip-off from Ohio is scheduled for 2 p.m. Oberlin (2-1) dropped its first contest of the young season. The Yeomen traveled to Carnegie-Mellon on Tuesday, Nov. 23 for a matchup with the Tartans. Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

MANCHESTER JV GIRLS BASKETBALL DEFEATS WINAMAC ON SATURDAY



Fast breaks like this one by freshman Maddy Miller helped the Lady Squires to victory against Winamac on Saturday evening at home.

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL							
AP Top 25							
The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 20, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:							
	Record	Pts	Prv		Record	Pts	Prv
1. Georgia (62)	11-0	1550	1	14. Texas A&M	8-3	628	16
2. Ohio St.	10-1	1434	5	15. UTSA	11-0	583	15
3. Alabama	10-1	1423	2	16. Utah	8-3	561	24
4. Cincinnati	11-0	1416	3	17. Iowa	9-2	538	18
5. Notre Dame	10-1	1262	6	18. Wisconsin	8-3	517	19
6. Michigan	10-1	1246	8	19. Houston	10-1	516	17
7. Oklahoma St.	10-1	1209	9	20. Pittsburgh	9-2	445	20
8. Mississippi	9-2	1060	10	21. Wake Forest	9-2	344	13
9. Baylor	9-2	1046	11	22. San Diego St.	10-1	273	23
10. Oklahoma	10-1	1001	12	23. Louisiana-Lafayette	10-1	246	22
11. Oregon	9-2	849	4	24. NC State	8-3	141	25
12. Michigan St.	9-2	778	7	25. Arkansas	7-4	105	21
13. BYU	9-2	771	14	Others receiving votes: Clemson 101, Mississippi St. 44, Penn St. 26, Appalachian St. 24, Kentucky 10, Purdue 3.			
AP Top 25 Schedule Thursday's Game							
No. 8. Mississippi at Mississippi St., 7:30 p.m.							
Friday's Games							
No. 4. Cincinnati at East Carolina, 3:30 p.m.							
No. 16. Utah vs. Colorado, 4 p.m.							







# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
http://young.senate.gov/contact

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
http://braun.senate.gov/

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:  
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

## DAILY SCRIPTURE

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 John 3:1

## Child tax credit is an investment in the nation’s future

Children are good. They may be sticky, loud and misbehaved. But that doesn’t make children, in themselves, any less good. It just makes them children – the adorable, needy, frustrating, chaotic and absolutely irreplaceable building blocks of society, and of human civilization itself. But children are also costly. It’s not just about money, though money’s certainly part of it. Even if you shop for discount groceries and secondhand clothes and used books and so on, it adds up. Health care. Education. And car seats, oh, the car seats. Children are also costly in terms of time, energy and focus. It can be hard for parents to find time for their own passions, and to maintain their shared relationship, which is the beating heart of the home. And even the kindest and most compliant children occupy a great deal of their parents’ worry and attention – and sometimes drive them simply batty. It goes without saying that the joy of children – their own guileless glee and what they inspire in others – far outweighs all these costs. But

more importantly from a public policy perspective, they are absolutely essential to the continuation of our society, economy and culture. That is why families needed and deserved the federal child tax credit while the COVID-19 crisis was at its worst, and also why the program should be made permanent. Since July, families have been receiving \$300 a month for every child up to 5 years old, and \$250 for kids 6 to 17. The credit is available to all families regardless of employment, but begins to phase out at certain high levels of income. The pending Build Back Better bill would extend this arrangement through 2022; a separate bill introduced by Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) would make it permanent. Distributing the credit monthly has turned it into a kind of child allowance that has transformed many families’ monthly budgets. While economists are deeply divided on the full magnitude of the impact, it’s clear that there are fewer families in dire straits than this time last year. But even for middle

class families, the credit has given some breathing room – a respite from creeping precarity. While this kind of monthly payment to families is new in the United States, it’s hardly a novelty around the world. According to UNICEF, 108 nations pay their families a monthly allowance to help them with child rearing. And some more aggressive pro-natalist policies, like Hungary’s, have shown modest success at reversing long-term declines in birth rates. Finally, while there is evidence that some parents are dropping out of the workforce due to the windfall, if they’re using their freedom to spend more time with their children, that’s a positive effect of the policy, not a negative one. Not all socially valuable work is compensated by the market. We invest in the future all the time in the form of science, technology, the environment, and so on. In the child tax credit, we invest in the actual human beings who will make all those other investments worthwhile. *This editorial was first published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*

## Tax debate should be about value of government services, not price

It seems likely the Indiana General Assembly will discuss major tax changes this year. This discussion is warranted for many reasons. First, this is a non-budget session, and these matters take time. So, beginning homework on our taxes is prudent, even if change takes several years. Second, we have some growing structural problems with our taxes that must be fixed. Third, we are enjoying a second year of budget windfall, with revenues coming in a half billion dollars ahead of expectations. And, finally, there are budget needs we have not adequately met over several budget cycles. Indiana taxes the income, property and consumption of both businesses and families. At the state level, we tax income and consumption. At the local level, we tax income and property. There are other, smaller taxes and fees, but these elements comprise most of our tax system.

Our income tax rate is low and flat at 3.23 percent, but the income tax is complex, imposing large compliance costs on Hoosier families and businesses. Merely simplifying this tax would be a tax cut. We also tax corporations at a higher rate than individuals. This causes distortions in the way firms organize themselves, contributing to the shrinking of that tax revenue.

It must be noted that corporations are often viewed as a juicy target for taxation, but corporations are owned by people who are also taxed on that income. It isn’t only rich folks who own these corporations; among the largest owners are retirement funds. So, raising taxes on a corporation is literally the same as raising taxes on retirement plans for teachers, your local plumber or nurse. Our state sales tax is high at 7.0 percent, but lacks a local option tax. So, the actual sales tax paid by Hoosiers is middle of the pack across the nation. The real problem with the sales tax in Indiana is simply that it is levied on a relatively small share of the things we buy. Hoosiers pay sales tax only on goods, with exclusion for most food items. When sales taxes were first started almost 60 years ago, more than half of a family’s budget went to the consumption of goods. Today, it is about one-third, and much of that is spent on untaxed food items.

With Hoosiers spending a shrinking share of their family income on goods, sales tax revenue faces long-term decline. That would mean cut-backs to government services or an increase in tax rates. But, if we were to spread the sales tax across all goods and services we purchase, we could reduce the tax rate to less than 4.0 percent and raise roughly the same tax revenues.

Finally, there is open discussion of eliminating the floor for local property taxes on business property. This requires a bit of explaining, so let me use an example. A business buys a new piece of equipment, say a dump truck or robotics. That property is supposed to be taxed up to 3.0 percent, but the business can depreciate the value of that property over time. This ‘depreciation schedule’ is a formal tax incentive designed to promote business investment in new technology.

Often, the whole purchase price of that new piece of equipment is depreciated over a few years. But, in Indiana there is a 30 percent floor on that depreciation. Both the depreciation schedule and the floor are accounting artifacts, not economic principles. Changing either simply alters the way businesses are taxed. A more useful way to think about this is to see what Indiana has done with business taxes over the past 20 years.

In 2000, Indiana’s business subsidies were 0.6 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. Our net tax rate on businesses of all types was 5.6 percent of GDP. By 2019, our net taxes declined to 5.5 percent of GDP. Nationally, the net tax rate on business rose from 6.5 percent to 5.8 percent over the same two decades. Since 2000, Indiana’s taxes on businesses declined from 86.7 percent of the national average to 80.8 percent of the national average. At the same time, our economy grew by 30 percent, while the nation as a whole grew by 45 percent.

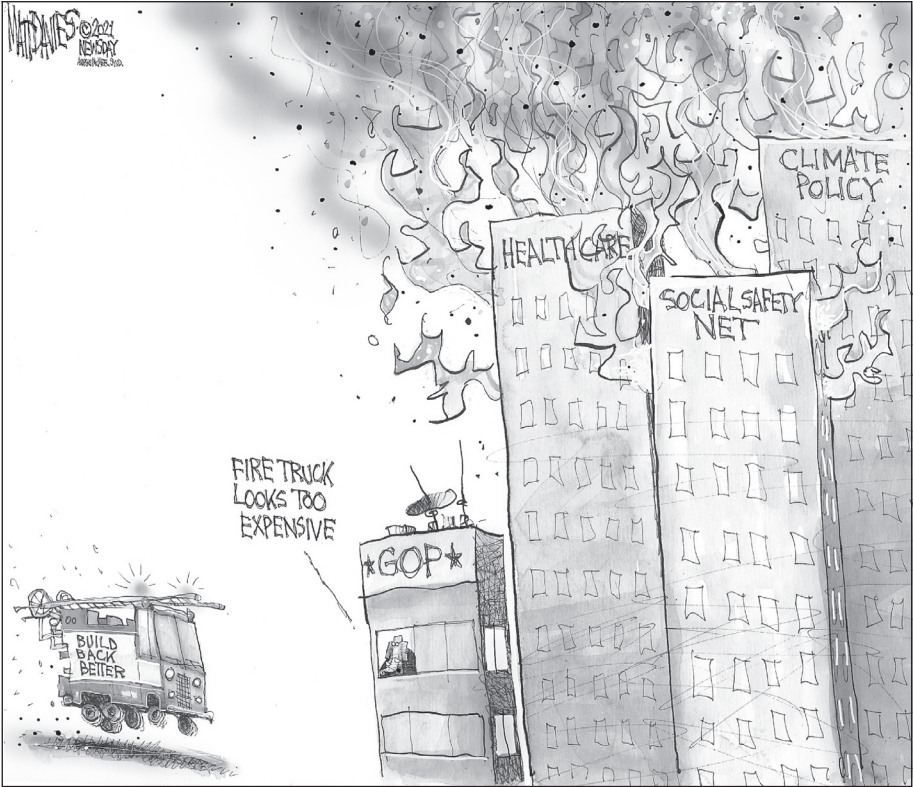
Let me state it more plainly. Over the past two decades, Indiana cut business taxes and saw agonizingly slow economic growth, averaging under 1.5 percent per year. At the same time, the nation as a whole raised business taxes and saw much faster economic growth, averaging over 2.2 percent per year. You may ask, how this can be; no business or family likes paying taxes?

The simple answer is that businesses and families are smarter than anyone seems to give them credit for. When purchasing a car, appliance or robot or hiring an employee they make a judgment based on value, not just price. For most businesses and families, the biggest economic decision they ever make is where to open shop and where to live. We’d be wise to assume they make these decisions based on value, not price. This translates into tax policy.

Indiana has been cutting the price of living and doing business for two decades, but those price cuts have not translated into more people and businesses. This means we have a problem with value, not price. We have far too many communities that lack the amenities that mobile American families seek. We have a declining share of young people heading to college, and an even smaller share of them graduating and staying in Indiana.

We need a tax system along state and local governments that focus on providing value, not competing on price. That must be top of mind in the General Assembly as they consider tax changes. In a world of businesses and people seeking value, being the low price location is not a winning strategy. As the General Assembly considers changes to taxes, they must keep in mind ways to improve the value proposition for Indiana. That is a call for better schools, more college graduates and more livable communities. A tax system can help deliver these, but it won’t happen by cutting the price.

*Michael Hicks may be reached by email at cberdirector@bsu.edu.*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thank a public health hero

In the spirit of the approaching Thanksgiving and holiday seasons, we should all pause and recognize the things we are grateful for. Though our focus is often on family, friends, the roof over our heads and the food on our tables, the continued health of our loved ones remains at the forefront. As we gather for what may be the first time in almost two years and look at the faces of our family and friends without the buffer of a screen, we must also remember those who helped us get here, those who faced the pandemic head-on and continue to work tirelessly to promote the wellness of our communities. Members of the public health space have stood strong and demonstrated tremendous resilience while working to protect our state in the face of one of the greatest health crises in modern history. With commitment and ingenuity, these public health heroes have not just managed the COVID-19 pandemic, but have continued to also respond to emergencies, combat opioid and drug abuse, ensure the safety of our air and water, promote maternal and child health, create awareness of chronic disease prevention, correct health misinformation and prepare for future health crises. These are not easy tasks, especially in the face of many environmental and institutional challenges that are unique to Indiana. That is why the Indiana Public Health Association joined the American Public Health Association and Research!America along with organizations and leaders from across the country to mark Monday, Nov. 22 as Public Health Thank You Day to publicly salute our public health heroes.

The dedicated staffs of Indiana’s 94 local health departments and the Indiana Department of Health comprise our core governmental public health workforce and are on the front lines in protecting Hoosiers. Still, healthy people and places rely upon the combined efforts of professionals across many disciplines and sectors. We ask you to join us in giving thanks to the epidemiologists who helped control disease spread, the public health nurses who are critical to vaccination efforts, local health officers who balance public safety and politics, the inspectors who ensure Hoosiers have a healthy food supply, the health educators who publicize accurate information, the community health workers who promote maternal health and address barriers in access to care, the clinical care providers who prevent and treat illness and so many others who work to promote and protect the health of communities throughout Indiana. It is impossible to thank every person who contributes to public health efforts in our state, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try. Learn more about Public Health Thank You Day by visiting publichealth-thankyouday.org or reach out to your local health department and join us in thanking our public health heroes. **Ellie Hansotte, MPH President, Indiana Public Health Association** **Joan Trendell, MS, RDN, LD President Elect, Indiana Public Health Association**

### Our disabled veterans are grossly under-compensated

Our disabled veterans are grossly under-compensated. They’ve been asking various Congresses and Administra-

tions for fair and adequate compensation since the end of World War I in 1918. That was a 103 years ago. In 2022, a disabled veteran with no dependents is compensated at the ridiculous rate of \$39,984.72 annually. The National Average Wage Index (NAWI) for 2020 was \$55,628.60 per annum and the median income for 2020 was \$67,521. The per capita GDP in 2020 was \$63,416, among the highest in the world. They are only compensated for projected lost wages and not including a “loss of quality of life” payment. That is an antiquated approach to injury compensation. They realize that they are being manipulated by our tax-evading elites who use campaign donations to Congresspeople to keep veterans’ compensation low to ensure a low tax rate. We can levy at least a penny tax on every dollar traded on the stock market to pay for the compensation due to our disabled veterans. The New York Stock Exchange alone traded about 1.46 billion shares a day in 2019. There are presently 13 separate stock exchanges operating in the USA. The Investor Class must finally step up. This is now a national security problem. Once our youth fully understand that should they enlist in the armed forces and subsequently be seriously injured or sickened in the line of duty then they are looking at a lifetime of near poverty and this realization among our young people will cause the armed forces to collapse quickly. We have no right to expect our youth to make a sacrifice like this so that our elites can evade a fair level of taxation. Act now. **Lorraine Bigby Columbia City**





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0900

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Sheriff's Sale File Number: 85-21-0028-SS  
Date & Time of Sale: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.  
Sale Location: Wabash County Sheriff's Department basement, Miami Street entrance, 79 W. Main St., Wabash, IN  
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$31,876.86

Cause Number: 85D01-1903-MF-000153  
Plaintiff: Freedom Mortgage Corporation  
Defendant: Gary D. Cooper and Fifth Third Mortgage Company

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Wabash Superior Court of Wabash County, Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the hour of 10:00 AM of said day as listed above, at 79 West Main Street, Wabash, IN 46992, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wabash County, Indiana:

Lot Number One Hundred Sixty-eight (168) in Ross Height's Addition to the city of Wabash, in Wabash County, Indiana.

Commonly Known as: 266 SHERMAN ST., WABASH, IN 46992-1112  
Parcel No. 85-14-02-301-149.000-009

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.

Ryan Baker, Sheriff of Wabash County  
By: Connie Rich, Administrative Assistant  
Phone: (260) 563-8891

Township of property location: Noble  
Common street address of property: 266 Sherman St, Wabash, IN 46992-1112  
Property Tax ID: 85-14-02-301-149.000-009

Attorney: BRYAN K. REDMOND  
Attorney Number: 22108-29  
Law Firm: Feiwel & Hannoy, P.C.  
Contact Number: (317) 237-2727  
F&H Reference #: 100621F01

The sheriff's office does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known street address. It is the buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and associated legal filings.0028  
hspaxlp

0900

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Sheriff's Sale File Number: 85-21-0027-SS  
Date & Time of Sale: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.  
Sale Location: Wabash County Sheriff's Department basement, Miami St. entrance, 79 W. Main St., Wabash, IN.  
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$61,512.00

Cause Number: 85D01-2106-MF-000421  
Plaintiff: U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture trustee, for the holders of the CIM Trust 2021-NR2, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2021-NR2  
Defendant: Patricia L. Wake

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Wabash Superior Court of Wabash County, Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the hour of 10:00 AM of said day as listed above, at 79 West Main St., Wabash, IN 46992, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wabash County, Indiana:

THE WEST 1/2 OF LOT 6 AND 7 IN COLLEGE VIEW ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF NORTH MANCHESTER, INDIANA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

Commonly Known as: 1201 N. SYCAMORE ST., NORTH MANCHESTER, IN 46962-1154  
Parcel No. 85-03-32-204-114.000-002

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.

Ryan Baker, Sheriff of Wabash County  
By: Connie Rich, Administrative Assistant  
Phone: (260) 563-8891

Township of property location: Chester  
Common street address of property: 1201 N Sycamore St, North Manchester, IN 46962-1154  
Property Tax ID: 85-03-32-204-114.000-002

Attorney: MATTHEW S. LOVE  
Attorney Number: 18762-29  
Law Firm: Feiwel & Hannoy, P.C.  
Contact Number: (317) 237-2727  
F&H Reference #: 104030F01

The sheriff's office does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known street address. It is the buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and associated legal filings.  
hspaxlp

0900

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE OF ASSESSMENTS GROSSNICKLE DRAIN #562 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

You are hereby notified that the Schedule of Assessments and Report for Phase 2 Reconstruction of the Grossnickle Drain (#562) have been adopted as amended by the Wabash County Drainage Board. Said drain is located within and immediately outside the cooperate limits of the Town of North Manchester, Chester Township, Wabash County, Indiana.

The Findings and Order of said Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Surveyor of Wabash County. If judicial review of said Findings and Order of said Board is not requested within (20) days from the dated of this notice, said Findings and Order shall become conclusive.

Wabash County Drainage Board  
Barry Eppley, Chairman  
November 24, 2021  
HSPAXLP.11/24/2021

0900

NOTICE TO BIDDERS, CONTRACTORS AND THE PUBLIC BY CITY OF WABASH, INDIANA

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Wabash will receive sealed bids for the following public improvements:  
Canal Street Sidewalk Improvements (Project No. 19-4231)  
The City of Wabash, Indiana will receive bids for the sidewalk improvement project in accordance with the Contract Documents, Construction Schedule and Specifications. Bids will be received until 4:00 PM local time on December 16th, 2021 at the City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St., Wabash, Indiana 46992. Bids received after that time will be returned unopened. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at a meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety at 4:00 PM local time on December 16th, 2021 at the City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St., Wabash, IN 46992.

The work shall consist of the removal of the existing concrete sidewalks, ADA ramps, handrails and street lights and the installation of new concrete sidewalks, ADA ramps, handrails, railings and street lights. This work will also include asphalt patching, drive and alley approaches and all other work necessary to provide for a complete project and as included in the Construction Schedule and Specifications for the work described.

Contract documents are on file at the City hall for viewing.

Prospective bidders may receive the Contract documents from the City free electronically, or may purchase a full size set of Contract documents from the City for \$25.00 in the form of a cashier's or certified check.

The Proposal must be made on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. Each bid shall be accompanied by a cashier's or certified check, drawn on an acceptable bank, or an acceptable bidder's bond, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, payable to the City of Wabash, Indiana.

The Contractor and all subcontractors will be required to comply with required Federal and State labor regulations.

The City of Wabash, Indiana, reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or parts thereof and to waive all responsibility for irregularities in bids.

CITY OF WABASH, INDIANA  
Board of Public Works and Safety Advertisement  
HSPAXLP.11/24,1201/2021

0100



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Sat. Nov. 27th  
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tenant pays utilities

1 BR 616 S Boots St; \$100/wk  
tenant pays electric

1 BR 311 E Sherman St; \$100/wk  
tenant pays electric

2 BR 605 W 3rd St; \$140/wk  
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2 BR 215 E 3rd St; \$170/wk  
basic utilities included

2 BR 509 E Bradford St  
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included

3 BR 509 E Bradford St; \$200/wk  
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3 BR 616 S Boots St; \$110/wk  
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**0900**

Wabash County Sheriff's Office and Jail Project: Phase 3: Building Notice is hereby given that the Wabash County Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as "Owner", are receiving sealed bids for work related to the above-mentioned project. The following information and special notice are presented to prospective bidders.

A. Project Information

1. Project Name:  
Wabash County Sheriff's Office and Jail Project: Phase 3: Building

2. Project Owner:  
Wabash County Commissioners

1 West Hill Street  
Wabash, IN 46992

3. Project Location:  
Wabash County Sheriff's Office and Jail  
1301 Manchester Ave.  
Wabash, IN 46992

4. Project Description:  
The project consists of a new 70,000 sq.ft. Sheriff's Office and Jail. Previous phases of work included preparation of building pads, foundations, and underslab plumbing. The work of this phase includes the remaining construction of the new building. A later phase will include final sitework.

5. Contract Documents Prepared By:  
RQAW Corporation  
8770 North St., Ste 110  
Fishers, IN 46038  
Phone: 317-588-1798  
Website: <http://www.rqaw.com>  
PYRAMID Consulting  
203 Good Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
Phone: 317-396-9426  
Email: [dflick@pyramidarch.com](mailto:dflick@pyramidarch.com)

B. Bidding Format

1. The project is being bid and constructed using multiple trade packages. The following packages have been previously bid and awarded:  
Phase 1: Sitework  
Trade Package 31A: Earthwork  
Phase 2: Foundations  
Trade Package 03: Foundations

2. The following packages are being bid at this time:  
Phase 3: Building  
Trade Package 09: General Trades  
Trade Package 23: Mechanical and Plumbing  
Trade Package 26: Electrical

3. Construction contracts will be directly between the individual trade package contractors and the Owner, and overall construction administration of the project will be the responsibility of PYRAMID.

C. Bidding Documents

1. Bidding documents will be made available after 2:00pm (local time), Wednesday, November 17, 2021

D. Pre-Bid Meeting:

1. There are two (2) scheduled pre-bid meetings:  
Location:  
Job Site Office  
1301 Manchester Ave.  
Wabash, IN 46992  
Pre-bid #1: 2:00pm (local time), Monday, November 29, 2021  
Pre-bid #2: 2:00pm (local time), Monday, December 6, 2021

2. All prime contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are invited to attend.

3. Attendance may be in-person or virtually. Contact Pyramid Consulting for meeting login information.

E. Bid Delivery:

1. Bids shall be sent or delivered in person to:  
Wabash County Auditor's Office  
1 West Hill Street  
Wabash, IN 46992

2. Bids will be received at the above address until the following date and time:  
9:00am (local time), Monday, December 20, 2021.

3. This will be considered "bid time" unless subsequently revised by addendum). Bids received after "bid time" will be returned unopened.

4. Bids will be held unopened until the following date and time, at which point they will be opened and publicly read at the location below:  
9:30am (local time), Monday, December 20, 2021  
Wabash County Council Chambers  
1 West Hill Street  
Wabash, IN 46992

5. Faxed or e-mailed bids will not be accepted.

6. Bidders are required to enclose with each bid the following bid forms (in duplicate):  
a. Bid Document 001300 – State Board of Accounts Form 96, including financial statement  
b. Bid Document 003000 – Stipulated Bid Form – Base Bid.  
c. Bid Security (see below)

7. Each envelope that bids are included in is required to have a label on the outside indicating project name as well as the contractor's name and address.

F. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check or acceptable bidder's bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the highest aggregate proposal, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the bidder will, if awarded the contract, enter into the same with the Owner upon notification from him to do so within ten (10) days of said notification. Should a successful bidder withdraw his bid, or fail to execute a satisfactory Contract, the Owner may then declare the bid deposit of bond or check forfeited as liquidated damages but not as a penalty.

2. For contracts over \$200,000, approved performance and payment bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of the Contractor at the time he executes his contract. The bond will be in the amount of 100% of the Contract Price and must be in full force and effect throughout the term of the Construction Contract plus a period of twelve (12) months from the date of substantial completion.

3. The Owner reserves the right to reject any proposal, or all proposals, or to accept any proposal or proposals, or to make such combination of proposals as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in bidding. Any proposal may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of proposals or authorized postponement thereof. Any proposal received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or waive any informality or errors in bidding for a period of 90 days after bid date.

4. A conditional or qualified Bid will not be accepted. Award will be made to the low, responsive, responsible bidder.

5. All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the project throughout.

6. Proposals shall be properly and completely executed on proposal forms included in the Project Manual. Proposals shall include all information requested by State Board of Accounts Form 96 (Revised 2013) included within the Project Manual. Under Section III of Form 96, the Bidder shall submit a financial statement. The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein.

7. Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site(s) and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid.  
HSPAXLP.11/17,11/24/2021

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# Face to face with the words and mysteries of C.S. Lewis

While historians argue about what C.S. Lewis did or didn't say, it can be stated with absolute certainty that the Oxford don never patted down his rumpled, professorial tweed jacket before exclaiming, "Where's my phone?"

That line occurs at the start of "The Most Reluctant Convert," as actor Max McLean enters a movie set preparing for the first scene. Seconds later, the camera follows him into the real Oxford, England, where Lewis was a scholar and tutor at Magdalen College.

At first, the famous Christian writer explains how he became an atheist. When he walks into the real White Horse pub, he orders two pints of beer, with one for the viewer. Soon, scenes from his memories spring to life, with Lewis striding through them as a narrator.

**Terry Mattingly**



"Lewis is in his imagination. He's personified in his thoughts. ... I do think that the structure emerged out of the fact that Lewis had a lot to say," said McLean, laughing.

Thus, director Norman Stone – a BAFTA winner for BBC's "Shadowlands" – let the "voice of Lewis articulate his struggle, his passion," said McLean. "(Lewis) is one of those rare individuals where one's intellect, one's emotions and one's spirituality are completely intertwined."

All of this is second nature to McLean, since the film covers much of the same territory as his own "C.S. Lewis Onstage." That was a one-man show at the

Fellowship for Performing Arts in New York City, an off-Broadway company McLean founded and guides as artistic director. It has staged other Lewis works, such as "The Screwtape Letters" and "The Great Divorce," drawing warm reviews from The New York Times and other major publications.

The first-person narration, explained McLean, was primarily drawn from Lewis' autobiography, "Surprised by Joy," and the many volumes of his personal letters.

The jump from stage to screen, of course, allowed the film's creators to seek permission to film in some of the most important sites linked to Lewis' life. In addition to the White Horse, viewers follow Lewis into the historic Magdalen College library, a tutor's campus suite and, most importantly, The Kilns – the home where

Lewis lived for decades with his older brother Warren and, briefly, with his cancer-stricken wife, the American poet Joy Davidman.

The movie ends with Lewis leaving a 1931 Christmas service at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Oxford, after he has received Holy Communion for the first time as an adult. As McLean is surrounding by the movie crew, the camera lifts high and pans, in one slow sweep, over to the parish cemetery and the grave of Clive Staples Lewis.

The key to the story, McLean noted, is the years in which Lewis became a believer, after the shallow Christianity of his childhood and his years as "hard-boiled atheist." But this conversion was not simple, since Lewis first became a mere theist. As Lewis wrote: "In the Trinity Term of 1929

I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."

The move to Christianity was aided by a circle of Oxford friends, including the famous scholar and novelist J.R.R. Tolkien. It was the creator of "The Lord of the Rings" who – in a debate that lasted to 3 a.m. – said, while describing Jesus: "Either this man was and is the Son of God, or else he is a liar, a lunatic or a fraud."

At one point in that conversation, the friends strolled along Addison's Walk, a wooded footpath near the River Cherwell on the Magdalen grounds. While making his arguments for conversion, Tolkien drew on Lewis' academic expertise in Greek, Roman, Norse and Medieval literature.

Lewis described that walk in personal letters, including a description of a gust of wind when leaves fell like rain.

"What makes Addison's Walk so magical," said McLean, is the "movement toward Christianity. That conversation with Tolkien makes him recognize the importance of Jesus. ... Tolkien says to him, 'The story of Christ is a myth like all the other myths, but with one tremendous difference – it really happened.'"

"Then the rush of wind interrupts them. You just know that God was watching, that God was waiting, because he had such an extraordinary, providential plan for that encounter."

*Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.*

## BOOSTERS

From page A1

others may prefer to get a different booster. Individuals who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine are eligible for a booster two months or more after their initial dose.

Local COVID-19 vaccination rates have continued lagging behind the state average. In the zip code 46992, which comprises Wabash, 40.3 percent of the eligible population has been vaccinated. Statewide, that figure sits at 52.6 percent, as of Tuesday, Nov. 23.

The eligible population for vaccinations increased earlier this month as the minimum age was lowered from 12 to 5.

On Wednesday, Nov. 3, the ISDH announced that Hoosiers ages 5 to 11 are now eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccine following the previous day's authorization of the pediatric vaccine by the CDC. The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized

for use in individuals under age 18.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, during the ISDH's weekly advisory level dashboard update, Wabash County remained in the orange or second-highest level. However, because of rising local cases, that level has crept from 2 to 2.5. Once that reaches 3, Wabash County would once again be in the red, or highest level.

As of Monday, Nov. 22, there were 5,898 local positive COVID-19 cases in Wabash County, with 19 of those being new. The local seven-day positivity rating of 20.7 percent for all tests, and a local seven-day positivity rating of 38.8 percent for unique individuals.

The number of local tests administered sat at 20,042. Earlier that day, the ISDH dashboard listed 717 of those being new, several times more than any other recent day. However, the ISDH soon confirmed that number was incorrect.

"We are working to correct a technical issue that impacted the dashboard numbers," said

ISDH Office of Public Affairs director and deputy chief of staff Jennifer O'Malley.

Later that day, that number was altered to show that 29 of those tests were new.

In observance of Thanksgiving, the ISDH dashboard will not update Thursday, Nov. 25 through Sunday, Nov. 28. Normal updates will resume on Monday, Nov. 29.

Also, the ISDH has announced that it has extended its COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway into December and has added appointments each day to ensure that individuals who received the first dose at the site can receive their second dose at the same location.

The clinic is being held in the INDYCAR parking lot at 4551 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, across from Gate 2. It offers the two-dose Pfizer pediatric and adult vaccines, as well as the two-dose Moderna and single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Vaccinations and testing are being offered from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30 through Saturday, Dec. 11,

from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 through Friday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 19, and from noon to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 through Wednesday, Dec. 22.

"The Indianapolis Motor Speedway clinic has been a popular site for parents who are eager to get their children vaccinated, and we want to make returning for that second dose as convenient as possible," said State Health Commissioner Kris Box, M.D., FACOG. "We are grateful to the Speedway for allowing us to extend our stay once again and encourage Hoosiers to make an appointment today."

Since late September, more than 15,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, including more than 1,500 pediatric doses, have been administered at the IMS clinic, along with more than 6,600 COVID-19 tests and more than 2,200 flu shots.

To pre-register for a COVID-19 test at the site, visit [www.coronavirus.in.gov](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov) and click on the

testing link at the top of the page, then search for the IMS site.

Individuals who visit the site for a vaccine or COVID-19 testing also can receive a flu vaccination while supplies last; individuals aged 65 and older who need a high-dose flu vaccine should contact their healthcare provider.

No appointments are required for flu vaccinations, which will be available for individuals regardless of insurance status. However, all applicable insurance coverage will be billed for the seasonal influenza vaccine.

In addition to vaccinations, Hoosiers seeking to learn about where to receive the monoclonal antibodies that have been used to prevent the progression of COVID-19 disease can contact 211 for information.

Callers to 211 will be connected to Crush COVID, a support center managed by KPMG LLP that provides information about monoclonal antibody treatment on behalf of participating providers. The service will locate the

nearest treatment site by ZIP code. Individuals can then contact the infusion center for more information about who can receive the treatment and how to schedule an appointment.

Nearly 100 sites across Indiana are serving as infusion centers.

Monoclonal antibody therapy is the first COVID-19 treatment granted emergency use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for outpatient use. The therapy has been shown to help high-risk COVID-19 patients avoid hospitalization and recover at home. It is also authorized by the U.S. FDA to prevent COVID-19 following exposure to the virus in some cases.

Parents who wish to schedule an appointment for their child to receive the vaccine and Hoosiers age 18 and older who want to obtain a booster dose may visit [www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov) or call 211 or 866-211-9966.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

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